



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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This is Calpeek's 44th issue of 1999 – meaning it's our last newsletter of the year – decade, etc. We'll be on X-Mas vacation for the next 3 weeks, but will return to work on or about Dec. 27th, preparing our Jan. 3, 2000 newsletter. We will mail Vol. XXII #1 on or about Dec. 30th. Calpeek's January renewal notices will go out on Dec. 27th. Here's wishing all Calpeek readers a very joyous holiday season.



CAMPAIGN 2000: THE FIGHT OVER BACA'S 32ND SD SEAT HAS THE GOP LICKING ITS POLITICAL CHOPS.

Editor's note: In the battle to replace new U.S. Rep. Joe Baca (D-San Bernardino) in the CA State Senate, sources believe Republicans will pump a ton of money into this Jan. 11th special primary, and perhaps even more into the Mar. 7th runoff. Here's our brief update & analysis...

...Pomona Assemblywoman Nell Soto is the favorite in the Demo primary, even though she'll have competition from Fontana Mayor David Eshleman. She won the endorsement of the San Bernardino Co. Central Labor Council on Nov. 29, just hours after filing closed. But Soto got very lucky because the candidate San Berdu Co. labor was backing, 37-year-old businessman Todd Tatum, a long time San Berdu resident, *failed* to turn in the *required number of signatures*. How many times have you heard this story! It happens once or twice in every cycle. Tatum not only had labor's backing, but most believe he would have won the endorsement of the San Berdu Co. Demo Central Cmt., because he's a member and the treasurer. Tatum will thus have to sit this one out, but San Berdu sources believe he still has a future in elective politics. GOP sources say Tatum would have been tough to beat...

...So with Tatum out of the way --- and Soto favored over Eshleman, the GOP's Rob Guzman, according to our sources, may have a fighting chance, even though registration in the 32nd SD is **51.86% Demo vs. 32.77% Republican**. And that's because Soto is from the L.A. Co. portion of the 32nd SD --- and the GOP is expected to make **TURF** (regionalism) a key issue. And our sources say it could work because the 32nd SD has been a San Bernardino Co.-based seat for a long time...

...FYI: GOP Assemblyman Brett Granlund, who was termed out of his 65th AD job, was looking at this seat, but backed out hours before filing closed. Assemblyman Rod Pacheco, the former GOP Assembly leader, recruited Guzman. Not much arm twisting needed, as Guzman has run twice for the 42nd CD. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK's 1999 REVIEW: WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT.

Editor's note: We'll end '99 with one of your favorite columns – *Who's Hot & Who's Not*. There is nothing objective about this column. Now sit back and enjoy, or scream & weep...

- ***Slow Poke Super Star*** – Gov. Gray Davis (D) isn't really that slow. He's just very deliberate...

- ***On the "A" List*** – U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer; State Sen. Jim Brulte (R); and State Senate President John Burton (D)...

- ***Twinkle Twinkle*** – Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa (D); Davis COS Lynn Schenk; and U.S. Rep. David Dreier (R)...

- ***Twinkle Winky Star*** – S.F. Co. Sup. Tom Ammi...

- ***A Star in Political Trouble*** – S.F. Mayor Willie Brown Jr. But he'll survive – no matter what...

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CALPEEK – P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213

● **Best Bet for Y2K Stardom** – Assembly Rules Cmt. Chair Bob Hertzberg(D), who has a lock at becoming the next Assembly Speaker...

● **Waiting In the Wings** – L.A. City Atty. Jim Hahn; U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell(R); Bradley nat'l cmp. mgr. Gina Glantz; and U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi(D)...

● **Termed Out & POed** – State Sen. Tom Hayden is looking for new challenges, but what an attitude...

● **Dumb & Dumber** – Ron Prince & Co. – authors of Prop. 187 and the proposed Son of 187 for 2000...

● **Once Bright but Fading** – San Diego Mayor Susan Golding, Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown; and L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan...

● **In & Out** – L.A. Councilman Joel Wachs, who finally came out of the "closet."...

● **Not Ready for Prime Time** – CRP Chair John McGraw...

● **Beavis & Butt-Head Award** – To Prop. 24 co-authors, U.S. Rep. Bill Thomas(R) and Ted Costa...

● **Revenge of the Nerds** – Prop. 25 co-authors Ron Unz and Tony Miller...

● **Overrated** – U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez(D-Orange Co.)...

● **Thumbs Up** – NBC-TV's new series *The West Wing*...

● **Thumbs Down** – State Sen. Pete Knight(R-Palmdale), who puts politics ahead of family...

● **Keep Your Eyes On** – San Diego businessman Peter Q. Davis; State Sen. Steve Peace(D); State Sen. Hilda Solis(D); and L.A. Co. Sheriff Lee Baca...

● **Folks Who Will Be Missed** – Milton Marks, Tom Ford, James Q. Wedworth, Ryan Nakagawa, Jeffery Cohelan, Peter Pitchess, Wilson Riles, Lisa Ann Rarick, Tom Bane, Joyce Chiang, Joyce Valdez, Eric Shuman, Bob Forsyth, Herb Baus, James A. Ware, Bill Craven, George Brown Jr., Steve Tamaya, John F. Kennedy Jr.,

Fred W. Kline, John Moreno, Ted Bruinsma, Annett Hall, Doris Allen, Pat Davis, Jules Glazer, Frank K. Richardson, Raymond L. Sullivan, Jane Small, Bernie Richter, Clem Whitaker Jr., Joe Serna Jr. R.I.P...

CAMPAIGN 2000: 3 MORE CA STATE SENATE RACES.

Editor's note: Prior to Thanksgiving, **Calpeek** began updating Legislative primary battles in 2000. This week we've got three more CA State Senate primaries to cover. When **Calpeek** returns from X-Mas vacation, we'll begin updating CA Assembly primaries...

☒ **1st SD** – At one point there were 3 viable GOP candidates running for Tim Leslie's OPEN 1st SD seat in 2000: former Assemblyman Bernie Richter; current Assemblyman Ricco Oller; and Calaveras Co. businessman Jim Johnston. Johnston dropped out Oct. 14th and then Richter died of a massive heart attack. It would seem that Oller has a lock on this primary, but Richard "Skip" Daum, a Sacto lobbyist, will try to make the primary interesting. Richter campaign manager George Osborn is assisting Daum, who has personal resources. Although the GOP Senate Leadership has endorsed Oller, as a group they don't have that same negative feeling about Daum as they did toward Richter. And prior to his death, Richter raised some issues which may have hurt Oller. We'll have to wait and see. Prognosis: Oller is favored...

☒ **25th SD** – When Assemblyman Carl Washington (D-52) dropped out of the running for Sen. Teresa Hughes' State senate seat, most sources thought Inglewood Assemblyman Ed Vincent(D) would have an uncontested Demo primary. But the 25th SD has a portion of Assemblyman Dick Floyd's old AD in it and so Floyd, who now represents the 55th AD, is running here. It's a clear case of carpetbagging, but it's up to the Assembly to handle the punishment, if they have the guts. Prognosis: the heart of the 25th SD is in Inglewood, thus Vincent is a favorite...

☒ **37th SD** – Yeah, yeah, we know GOP Assemblyman Jim Battin has a huge war chest and is favored, but our sources say Battin could have some trouble from San Diego Co. Water Board Authority member Mark Watton(R). Prognosis: Battin favored, but this primary should be on your *watch list*. Stay tuned...

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CAMPAIGN 2000: CALIF. BALLOT BOX BUDGETING.

Editor's note: With various State constitutional mandates and other laws spelling out how Calif. must spend its tax dollars, there's only 12-15% of each year's budget which is *discretionary*. But that percentage could shrink if voters pass two initiatives aimed for the November 2000 ballot. Here's our update & analysis...

...The best current example of *ballot box budgeting* is Prop. 98 - an initiative put on the ballot by the CTA which requires the Governor and Legislature to spend **40%** of the budget on K-14 education. But this isn't the only example. Prop. 99 and Prop. 10 are the two tobacco tax initiatives which were approved by voters. As a result, there are many who say Gov. Gray Davis and the CA Legislature are simply on *automatic pilot* each year with regard to critical decisions because of *ballot box budgeting*...

...The two new initiatives which best illustrate *ballot box budgeting* are: 1) *The Tobacco Treatment & Health Care Act*, and 2) *Reinvesting In Calif. Schools Act*. Both are at the AG's office awaiting title & summary and are expected to qualify for November 2000...

...The Tobacco Treatment & Health Care Act is being backed by a powerful coalition of healthcare special interest groups, headed by the CA Medical Assn. This initiative would **require** the State and at least 16 of Calif.'s largest counties to spend their national tobacco settlement funds on healthcare. Over a 25 year period it's **\$25 billion**, split evenly between the state and local governments. Although our sources are not certain, there are indications the settlement money will be run through the general fund to avoid conflicts with the CTA. But local governments don't like this measure at all and will lead the anti forces, joined by State & muni employee groups (+law enforcement). FYI: Where does Gov. Davis stand? He *vetoed* AB 100, which would have required the State to spend its share of the settlement funds on healthcare. Davis met with the initiative sponsors and our sources say the meeting was *not* productive. Our guess: Davis will oppose...

... With the State awash in surplus revenues (FYI: the estimate for next year's surplus is \$2.6 billion and growing), the powerful CA Teachers Assn.(CTA) is pushing its *Reinvesting In Calif. Schools Act*. The initiative would bring Calif. up to the national average in per-pupil spending. The cost: **\$6 billion!** This initiative would mandate that the CA Legislature raise taxes to pay for this plan --- and by a majority vote, not a 2/3rds vote. Our sources say the business community is up in arms and there have even been some threats of *pulling support* for Prop. 26 - to reduce from 2/3rds to 50% the vote required to pass local school bonds. And many of CTA's traditional allies are lining up against this measure. Some sources think CTA's initiative is just a bluff to get some of the tobacco settlement funds. No official word on where Gov. Davis is on CTA's plan, but our sources bet he'll oppose this one too. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here's another update on key Calif. U.S. House contests. The deadline for filing for U.S. House elections is Dec. 10th...

☒ **42nd CD** - At this point new U.S. Rep. Joe Baca (D-San Bernardino) may not even have a viable GOP challenge next year. Attorney Elia Pirozzi(R), who was just mashed by Baca on Nov. 16th by 10-pts., hasn't even taken out papers. Sources say that after two unsuccessful runs it's not likely that he'll go again...

☒ **36th CD** - Freshman U.S. Rep. Steve Kuykendall (R-Palos Verdes) will have a primary challenge from hardline conservative Bob Pegram, who has raised more than \$100,000 so far. That's not chump change. Pegram is a pro-gun, pro-life, anti-NAFTA/GATT Republican. He's opposed to foreign wars and sounds a little like Pat Buchanan. John Paul Tabakian is handling Pegram's daily management...

...On the Demo side, House Demo Leader Dick Gephardt is still trying to persuade Jane Harman to run for her old seat. Sources say Gephardt calls her almost daily. But now there's another Demo who has taken out papers: James Cavuoto, a computer/hi-tech businessman who has resources and has hired Bobi Johnson to handle his daily campaign...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Unz Bows Out of U.S. Senate Race** – Very unexpected news from Ron Unz: he has pulled the plug on his GOP U.S. Senate bid. Unz says he did this so he could devote full time to his campaign reform initiative, Prop. 25. That's *Unzspin*. Others aren't so charitable. They say U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell would have beaten Unz in the primary and that Unz saw the handwriting on the wall...

■ **The Hardcastle Memo** – The author of this Nov. 16th memo to CRP Executive Board members is Greg Hardcastle, 1st Asst. Sec. of the CA Republican Party, with solid conservative credentials. The memo is not only a defense of CA GOP Nat'l Committeewoman Barbara Alby against attacks by CRP Chair John McGraw, but is an indictment of McGraw's management of the party. In part the memo says, "To be quite blunt, if our Chairman had made half the calls and made half the effort in working for the party and doing the job of chairman that he has done in in trying to 'teach Barbara Alby a lesson' by running Gerry Snyder against her, our Party, our candidates and our fundraising effort would be much further down the road indeed." It gets even better (nastier). More next time...

■ **Prop. 24's Court Date** – Mark your calendars for Dec. 8th. That's when Demo attorney Joe Remcho presents his brief to the CA Supreme Court to toss Prop. 24 off the Mar. 7th ballot. The key aim of the *Let The Voters Decide* initiative is to remove reapportionment from the Legislature and hand it over to the CA Supreme Court. The sponsors of 24 have dressed up their initiative in a *slash legislative pay overcoat* and thus this measure may violate Calif.'s single subject rule for initiatives. That's what Chief Justice Ron George & The Supremes will have to decide...

■ **Villaraigosa to Hertzberg** – Over the Thanksgiving holiday, Demo Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa announced he would step down April 26th and would support Rules Cmt. Chair Bob Hertzberg to become the next Speaker. Hertzberg is expected to win the title of Speaker-designate on Jan. 24th...



CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Stan Statham has been named president/ceo of Calif. Broadcasters Assn. He had been the group's executive director...

● Attorney Nathan H. Bernstein has moved to new offices at 5900 Wilshire Blvd., 26th Floor, L.A. 90036. ☎(323)692-7828...

● Ron Stone, former govt. affrs. mgr. for Mattel, Inc., has joined the govt. affairs group of the L.A. law firm of Arter & Hadden...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center** seeks Communications and Marketing Director. Media, marketing and publication experience required. Send cover letter, resume & salary requirements to: LAGLC/Managing Director, 1625 N. Schrader Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90028. Fax: (323)993-7699. EOE.

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